



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES PROBATION DEPARTMENT

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August 26, 2016

TO: Supervisor Hilda L. Solis, Chair
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Sheila Kuehl
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich
Cal

FROM: Calvin C. Remington, Interim Chief Probation Officer
CSEC Integrated Leadership Team

SUBJECT: **REPORT BACK: COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF
CHILDREN PROTOCOLS (ITEM 16, AGENDA OF JULY 26, 2016)**

On July 26, 2016, on motion of Supervisors Knabe and Ridley-Thomas, your Board directed the County's Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) Integrated Leadership Team (ILT), in conjunction with the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and the Director of the Office of Child Protection (OCP) to report back to the Board in 30 days on the following:

1. A list and description of CSEC interagency protocols that need to be created, developed, updated or finalized;
2. A plan and timeline for ensuring these protocols are completed;
3. Recommendations for how best to conduct housing placement research; and
4. A budget for protocol completion and housing placement research.

Over the past five years, Los Angeles County has pioneered the work related to CSEC and those at-risk for exploitation in Los Angeles. Through the leadership of the Board of Supervisors, the County has developed innovative approaches to identify and more effectively serve this population, utilizing both prevention and intervention strategies. However, there is still work that needs to be done to ensure our CSEC receive the services and support they need. The following outlines the protocols and research to be completed:

I. DESCRIPTION OF CSEC INTERAGENCY PROTOCOLS THAT NEED TO BE CREATED, DEVELOPED, UPDATED OR FINALIZED

The development of protocols that fulfill the requirements of California's Commercially Sexually Exploited Children's Program (SB 855) and the Federal Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act (P.L. 113-183, CA – SB 794) to include:

- Under SB 855, development of an interagency protocol that utilizes a multidisciplinary approach to identify and respond to CSEC. Elements of the protocol to include, but not be limited to: crisis, initial and on-going multidisciplinary team (MDT) response, core practice model, and child and family teams (CFTs). Additionally, provide technical assistance to the County of Los Angeles Probation Department (Probation) and Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) on internal identification and response protocol that aligns with the interagency protocol and includes the use of the Commercial Sexual Exploitation – Identification Tool (CSE-IT), data collection, and multi-disciplinary response. As part of protocol development, create specialized guidance and associated documents related to specialized CSEC advocacy.
- Under SB 794, development of policies and procedures to fulfill the provisions related to CSEC and for children who are missing or have run away from care that may be at risk of exploitation within the probation and child welfare systems. CSEC policies and procedures must include: screening to identify CSEC, determining appropriate services, and documenting these services in the relevant case management system. Policies and procedures regarding runaway/missing youth must include: expeditiously locating any child or youth missing from jurisdiction, fulfilling mandatory reporting laws and reporting to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), understanding why the youth ran away or was missing, determining how the youth survived while away, screening whether the youth was exploited while gone, and documenting this information.

The development of protocols to address innovative approaches to CSEC work within the County to include:

- Development of an Interagency Detention Identification and Response Protocol to identify and address the needs of trafficked youth detained in juvenile hall, camp, and Dorothy Kirby Center.
- Development of the Victim Witness Testimony Protocol for identified CSEC who may testify against their exploiter. This Protocol will attempt to minimize the trauma to the child witness and facilitate communication between the agencies involved to ensure that the child is available and prepared for such testimony and supported following it.

- Assist in the development of protocols for the delinquency/dependency specialty courts (STAR/DREAM) to include, but not be limited to, assessment and multi-disciplinary case reviews, and tracking of cases.
- Assist in the development of a Probation and DCFS Child Trafficking Operational Manual to include referral and assessment, safety planning and case management, enhanced supervision elements, and AB 12/Independent Living Plan (ILP) services and support.
- Development of executive summary reports to highlight other County initiatives such as 211 services portal for CSEC, Safe Youth Zone initiative, CSEC Foster Care Provider Roundtables
- Update the Law Enforcement First Responder Protocol (FRP) based on the successes, lessons learned, and outcomes from the first two years of implementation.
- Development of an implementation and training plan to expand the FRP to fire and medical personnel or agencies.
- Development of a comprehensive report highlighting Los Angeles County's leadership in our efforts to identify and more appropriately serve CSEC. This report will discuss the successes, challenges, and lessons learned by discussing the innovative processes, such as the FRP, developed by the County. This report will include a narrative regarding CSEC within Probation and DCFS.

II. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR HOW BEST TO CONDUCT HOUSING AND PLACEMENT RESEARCH

Anecdotal evidence suggests that certain placements with a combination of services are most effective at engaging and stabilizing CSEC. Unfortunately there is a dearth of research that empirically substantiates this evidence. Therefore the CSEC ILT along with the contracted consultant will conduct research to explore which foster care placements and combination of services are effective at engaging and stabilizing CSEC.

This research will provide an empirical basis for distilling which placement and/or services, or combination thereof, improve outcomes for CSEC. The research will highlight which components of those services have a measurable impact. The study will use data from 2009 to present that has been collected by the County. This first-of-its-kind research will develop an evidence base, which will have tremendous value for jurisdictions throughout the state and country as they move forward in their efforts to improve outcomes for CSEC. In addition to the quantitative analysis conducted by a researcher, there will be a review of the literature regarding existing programs throughout the Country, and qualitative research interviewing key stakeholders (agency

staff, placement providers, CBOs), including CSEC in different placement types (group homes, foster families, relatives, etc.) who are receiving different combinations of services to ensure the youth's perspective is incorporated into the research findings.

III. PLAN AND TIMELINE FOR ENSURING COMPLETION OF PROTOCOLS

The CSEC ILT, CEO and OCP have met to discuss the various protocols to be developed along with timelines and priorities for each. A dashboard outlining each protocol along with the research component will be established by the CSEC ILT to include a development plan for the protocols, completion dates and timelines for implementation of the protocols and other deliverables. This will be monitored by the CSEC ILT to ensure that all deliverables are completed timely.

IV. BUDGET FOR PROTOCOL COMPLETION AND HOUSING PLACEMENT RESEARCH

Funding for protocols listed above along with the housing research will be secured through SB 855 funds along with Healthier Communities, Stronger Families, Thriving Children (HST) funds approved by your Board on November 3, 2015, for the purpose of program evaluation and housing research. The total budget for this project is \$479,600 to be financed by \$141,500 from HST funds and \$338,100 from SB 855 funds.

The Probation Department has contracted with the National Center for Youth Law (NCYL) on this effort. NCYL is a non-profit organization that, for over four decades, has worked to improve the lives of disadvantaged children and youth. NCYL has established itself as an expert related to child trafficking, specifically sex trafficking. In 2012, NCYL formed a workgroup of the California Child Welfare Council (Council) to explore the problem of CSEC in California. In June 2013, the Council released the workgroup's report, *Ending the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: A Call for Multi-System Collaboration in California*, authored by Kate Walker Brown, a NCYL attorney. NCYL has partnered with Probation and DCFS for the past three years. Over the course of its partnership, NCYL authored the Law Enforcement First Responder Protocol for CSEC, for the County which has received State and National recognition.

Please contact me if you have any questions or require additional information, or your staff may contact Michelle Guymon, Probation Director, at (661) 236-5405.

CCR:FC:MG

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